

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A trocar comprising:

a cannula for receiving an implant and inserting the implant into an animal,
the cannula having a sharp tissue penetrating distal end;

a spring element received entirely within the cannula, the spring element
having a leaf spring for retaining the implant inside the cannula, the leaf spring applying a
frictional force against the implant sufficient to prevent the implant from sliding out of the
cannula under a weight of the implant, wherein the spring element is formed as a sheet with
the leaf spring is formed as a T-shaped cut out portion within the sheet; and

an obturator for delivering the implant from the cannula into the animal.

Claim 4. (Previously amended) A trocar comprising:

a cannula for receiving an implant and inserting the implant into an animal;

a spring element received within the cannula, the spring element having a leaf
spring for retaining the implant inside the cannula, the leaf spring applying a frictional force
against the implant sufficient to prevent the implant from sliding out of the cannula under a
weight of the implant;

an obturator for delivering the implant from the cannula into the animal; and

wherein the leaf spring has a plurality of successive bends and the successive
bends are arranged to alternately contact an inside wall of the cannula and an outside of the
implant to retain the implant in the cannula.

Claim 5. (Original) The trocar according to claim 4, wherein the leaf spring has a
longitudinal leg arranged substantially parallel to an axis of the cannula and a cross leg

substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal leg, and the plurality of successive bends are formed on the longitudinal leg.

~~2~~ Claim 6. (Original) The trocar according to claim ~~4~~⁵, wherein the leaf spring having the plurality of successive bends is compressed in a radial direction of the cannula by the insertion of the implant into the cannula.

Claims 7-20. (Canceled)

~~21~~¹⁰ Claim 21. (Currently amended) A trocar comprising:
a cannula for receiving an implant and inserting the implant into an animal;
a spring element received within the cannula, the spring element formed from a sheet with a continuous cut forming a T-shaped leaf spring connected to a surrounding sheet;
~~62~~ an obturator for delivering the implant from the cannula into the animal; and
wherein the leaf spring retains the implant inside the cannula by applying a frictional force against the implant sufficient to prevent the implant from sliding out of the cannula under a weight of the implant.

~~22~~¹ Claim 22. (Previously added) The trocar according to claim ~~21~~¹⁰, wherein the obturator has a tapered distal end to prevent ejection of the spring element from the cannula when the obturator is moved distally to eject the implant from the cannula.

~~23~~¹² Claim 23. (Previously added) The trocar according to claim ~~21~~¹⁰, wherein the spring element is fixed within the cannula.

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Claim 24. (Previously added) The trocar according to claim ¹⁰21, wherein the leaf spring is received entirely within the cannula.

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Claim 25. (Previously added) The trocar according to claim ¹⁰21, wherein the spring element is received entirely within the cannula.

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Claim 26. (Previously added) The trocar according to claim ⁵4, wherein the obturator has a tapered distal end to prevent ejection of the spring element from the cannula when the obturator is moved distally to eject the implant from the cannula.

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Claim 27. (Previously added) The trocar according to claim ⁵4, wherein the spring element is fixed within the cannula.

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Claim 28. (New) The trocar according to claim ¹3, wherein the leaf spring has a longitudinal leg and cross leg, and the cross leg of the leaf spring is wider than the longitudinal leg in a circumferential direction.

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Claim 29. (New) The trocar according to claim ²28, wherein the cross leg has tabs on either end which secures the leaf spring against motion away from the cannula surface towards the cannula axis.

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Claim 30. (New) The trocar according to claim ¹3, wherein the sheet is substantially rectangular.

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Claim 31. (New) The trocar according to claim ¹⁰21, wherein the sheet is substantially rectangular.
